

18. OUTDOOR RECREATION

“Conservation must come before recreation.”³⁰

Installation commanders will provide for controlled recreational access at DA installations and facilities containing land and water areas suitable for public recreational use and enjoyment. Such access will be within manageable quotas, subject to safety, military security, threatened and endangered species restrictions, and capability of the natural resources to support such use; and at such times as such access can be granted without bona fide impairment of the military mission, as determined by the installation commander (AR 200-3).

USARAK will develop an Outdoor Recreation Management Action Plan for inclusion with this INRMP (see Appendix 1). In accordance with AR 200-3, development of this plan is a joint responsibility of the directorates of Public Works and Community Activities. The Environmental Resources Department will address the portion of the plan that has responsibility for the management of wildlife and natural resources. The Community Recreation Division will address the movement of persons, special events, and organizational elements of outdoor recreation. Until the action plan is completed, 172nd Brigade Regulation 28-2, 5 February 1982, *Fort Richardson Outdoor Recreational Plan*, remains in effect, unless superseded by more recent regulations or items within this INRMP.

18-1 Objectives

- Provide opportunities to both the Fort Richardson community and the general public for high-quality outdoor recreation
- Manage outdoor recreation consistent with needs of the Fort Richardson military mission

- Manage outdoor recreation while maintaining ecosystem integrity and function

18-2 Military Mission Considerations

The military mission has priority over all other land uses on Fort Richardson including outdoor recreation. If hunting and fishing (or other outdoor recreational activities) are to continue to thrive on Fort Richardson, this military mission priority must not be compromised. If recreational or management activities conflict with military activities, the military mission comes first.

While the Army has been training soldiers around the world for more than a century, it also has provided quality recreational opportunities for soldiers, their families, employees, and the general public. USARAK has shown that these two goals can be met even in the most rigorous and demanding of training environments.

18-3 Public Access

Traditionally, there have been ample opportunities for the public to access and participate in recreational activities on Fort Richardson. In maintaining a liberal policy of public access, USARAK relies on responsible individuals to adhere to restrictions placed on access by Range Control.

DOD Directive 4715.3, *Environmental Conservation Program*, May 3, 1996, states, “. . . those [DOD] lands shall be made available to the public for educational or recreational use of natural and cultural resources when such access is compatible

³⁰Prince Charles of Wales, *Times*, London, 5 July 1989

with military mission activities, ecosystem sustainability, and with other considerations such as security, safety, and fiscal soundness. Opportunities for such access shall be equitably and impartially allocated.”

Paragraph 2-10 of Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources—Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*, states that access by recreational users, “. . . will be within manageable quotas, subject to safety, military security, threatened or endangered species restrictions, and the capability of the natural resources to support such use; and at such times as such access can be granted without bona fide impairment of the military mission, as determined by the installation commander.”

Fort Richardson’s hunting and fishing programs will remain open to military personnel, dependents, civilian employees, as well as members of the outside public who have a current Alaska hunting or fishing license. A post hunting and fishing permit also is required. There are no restrictions on number of permits issued to the public. There are, however, quotas established for moose hunting permits on the post. More civilians than military personnel participate in most hunting and fishing activities on Fort Richardson.

USARAK’s policies regarding public access are within both the spirit and letter of the Army’s and DOD’s policies, and they will be continued in 1998–2003.

18-4 Hunting and Fishing Programs

18-4a Hunting and Fishing Activities

Fishing is an important natural resources-based form of outdoor recreation at Fort Richardson. The popularity of the sport can be attributed to both sound management and efficient administrative procedures that allow easy access for anglers. Hunting also is an important natural resource-based outdoor recreational pursuit for many on the post.

Data on the number and type of permits issued is kept by the MP Game Wardens. To date, this data has not been tabulated. In general, the number of permits issued in the past few years has increased. In 1994, 565 hunting and fishing permits were issued.

Fishing at Fort Richardson is centered primarily around the five main lakes that are stocked with fish. Fishing in streams and rivers also is important, although there are seasonal highs in the amount of use. The majority of hunters that use Fort Richardson are in pursuit of moose; fewer hunters pursue small game.

18-4b Potential Hunting and Fishing

Knowing the full potential for hunting and fishing requires a knowledge of factors such as biological potential of the land to produce game, degree of recreational quality desired, effects of the military mission on natural resources and associated recreation, and various sociological factors that influence hunter and angler activities.

18-4b(1) Moose Hunting

The number of moose to be harvested on post during the fall and winter hunting season is determined by the results of the annual moose survey. When the moose population increases above or decreases below target numbers set through management goals, the number of hunting permits for moose will be adjusted accordingly. Consideration also must be given to how the moose population may impact



Fort Richardson hosts the most popular moose hunt in the state.

Anchorage businesses and residences during the winter, when habitat may be limited.

18-4b(2) Small Game Hunting

Potential for increased grouse, hare, and ptarmigan hunting is minimal. These species experience fluctuations in populations, and under current bag limits and seasons, hunter demand is being met.

18-4b(3) Furbearer Hunting

Although demand for increased coyote hunting exists due to the large number of hunters living in nearby urban areas, the coyote population appears to have been greatly reduced in the last five years due to increased wolf activity on post. Hunting of coyotes will be based on population status as determined by Natural Resources Branch. Opportunities for hunting other furbearers are not feasible due to safety concerns and limited resources.

18-4b(4) Waterfowl Hunting

Currently, waterfowl hunting on Fort Richardson is confined to areas north of the Eagle River. Lakes in these areas also are used heavily for fishing and other recreation.

18-4b(5) Fishing

There is some potential for growth of Fort Richardson's fishing program, but it is dependent almost entirely on the availability of fish from the hatchery and expansion of the stocking program. Increased stockings of Dishno Pond, Waldon, and Thompson Lakes hold the most potential for increased fishing use on the post.

Currently, Clunie, Gwen, and Otter Lakes receive most of the management effort as well as most of the recreational use. This is due primarily to the ease of access to these lakes.

Improving access and maintenance, and upgrading facilities at some of the post's lakes is another area of potential growth for the fishing program. The Clunie Lake area could be improved by graveling the parking area, providing sanitation facilities, and installing barriers to keep vehicles out of wetlands. In addition, the area has great potential for development of camping facilities. Waldon Lake has a good parking area, but adjacent natural areas are

being degraded by uncontrolled, unauthorized uses, such as camping. A boardwalk or portable pier for anglers could be installed to enhance fishing opportunities. Thompson Lake mainly requires the installation of barriers around common parking areas to stop damage to wetlands by vehicles. The road to Dishno Pond should be blocked to all traffic, as the area is very wet. The hiking trail to this pond needs improvement to allow better access. Improvements to Gwen Lake should concentrate on shore rehabilitation as the area has extensive damage from both beaver activity and human foot traffic. Development of a trail and possibly boardwalks in the marsh and wetland areas could greatly improve angler access to this area.



Fort Richardson provides good fishing opportunities close to Anchorage.

Of concern is the practice of driving vehicles onto frozen lakes, generally for ice fishing. This can lead to loss of vehicles, and is a significant human safety hazard. It also poses a potential pollution risk (oil spills, etc.). It is for these reasons that driving privately-owned vehicles onto frozen lakes is prohibited.

18-4b(6) Trapping

Over the years, Fort Richardson's trapping program has been fraught with numerous problems. Among these are:

- (1) Individuals tampering with traps not belonging to them
- (2) Individuals accidentally stepping into traps

- (3) Trappers failing to pull traps prior to military exercises as required, forcing LEC Military Game Wardens to remove traps
- (4) Threatened lawsuits from people whose pets were accidentally caught or injured in traps
- (5) Needless destruction of non-target species (such as lynx and otter) caught in traps
- (6) Reports of people almost getting their hands caught in traps

In addition to these safety, liability, and mission-related problems, the program has proven to be unjustifiably burdensome and time-consuming to both administer and enforce. This, coupled with the fact that these resources on Fort Richardson are very limited, has warranted the elimination of this program in favor of directing management efforts and energy toward programs that have been proven more successful on Fort Richardson, such as hunting and fishing.

18-4b(7) Conclusion

Moose hunting and recreational lake fishing are the most popular activities in terms of user demand. Both have growth potential, but whether or not growth occurs will depend on species population dynamics more than any other factor. Fishing recreation may be increased if proposed projects are completed and the current stocking rate is maintained or increased.

18-4c Hunter and Angler Administrative Processes

Military installations usually have complex hunter and angler control systems. These are needed to accommodate recreational activities without interference to the military mission and to ensure safe recreational experiences.

18-4c(1) Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources - Land Forest and Wildlife Management*, and USARAK Regulation 190-13, *Enforcement of Hunting, Trapping and Fishing on Army Lands in Alaska*, along with this plan are the primary documents governing

hunting, fishing, and other natural resources-related activities on Fort Richardson. Appendix B of USARAK Reg. 190-13 provides information relating to the use of weapons, closed areas, and hunting and fishing regulations on Fort Richardson.

USARAK Reg. 190-13 will be revised within the next five years by USARAK Natural Resources and LEC Wildlife Enforcement to reflect provisions within this INRMP. Until then, this plan will supersede in any areas where the two documents differ.

18-4c(2) Hunting and Fishing Permits

In order to participate in hunting or fishing on Fort Richardson, individuals must obtain a post permit. Permits are issued at the Fish and Wildlife Museum to holders of valid state licenses. Permits are presently free of charge and good for one year.

Almost all military installations issue permits for hunting, fishing, and trapping, but most are charging a fee for those permits. Army funding policies are making it almost impossible to fund hunting and fishing programs unless a fee system is installed. Funds collected are available for fish and wildlife projects on the installation where they were collected. At Fort Richardson, the establishment of a system to collect the money is the biggest stumbling block to establishing a fee system.

There are at least three different military entities that could sell hunting and fishing permits.

- The Military Police could establish a system to sell permits that they now issue for free. This would mean establishing a money accountability system, which would be a considerable addition to current duties.
- Outdoor Recreation could sell permits at outlets already handling money. This has the advantages of already established outlets and financial accounting systems as well as a desire on the part of Outdoor Recreation to undertake the mission. Only 10 percent of permit funds received could go to Outdoor Recreation by regulation, and this may not cover costs, a critical element for this organization. Therefore, an additional recreation fee might have to be established, making the cost of permits higher.

- The Natural Resources Branch could establish a system whereby it would collect moneys and sell hunting and fishing permits. This could work well if a biological technician was hired to handle the permits and monitor the program.

USARAK surveyed other military installations with regard to establishing a fee permit system. This survey will be used to help make decisions on a fee-based permit system at Fort Richardson. Any fees established for Fort Richardson would be based on costs of program management on the post, the costs:benefits ratio of administering a fee system, and other pertinent factors. If fee-based permits are issued, they will be on a calendar year basis.

Recently Chugach State Park, which shares much of its western border with Fort Richardson, instituted a user fee of \$5 per vehicle to cover its operating expenses. This is a precedent in this state and reflects the ever increasing need to acquire additional sources of funding. Population growth results in heavier use; current funding sources are unable to keep pace with the rising costs of maintaining these areas. Fort Richardson is experiencing a similar situation.

18-4c(3) Check-in and Clearing Procedures

USARAK Regulation 190-13 outlines specific requirements of hunters with regard to check-in/out policies. Hunters are required to register daily at the main gate. They are then permitted to sign into any two hunting areas open for that day. Range Control provides the MP desk daily information regarding open and closed areas. At the end of each day, hunters are required to sign out in person. At this time, hunters are required to report their daily harvest on a daily hunter harvest record. Anglers not stationed or employed on the installation or Elmendorf AFB are required to stop at the main gate and obtain a visitor's pass. All other personnel entering the training areas are encouraged to contact the MP desk to obtain area closure information.

18-4c(4) State License Sales

Persons are responsible for obtaining state hunting or fishing licenses before receiving post permits

from the MP office. The MP office does not sell state licenses.

18-4c(5) Hunting/Fishing Maps

Fort Richardson maps are essential for hunter and angler use in the post's training areas. These maps, found in USARAK Regulation 190-13, identify closed areas, special hunting areas, fishable lakes and waterways. In 1998–2000, the Natural Resource Office will use its GIS to provide a better map for hunters and anglers.

18-4c(6) Safety Considerations

The Military Fish and Wildlife Office, at the Wildlife Museum, gives each person who obtains a post hunting or fishing permit a Fort Richardson Safety Briefing. Several specialized briefings for the fall and winter archery/black powder moose hunts are cooperatively presented by USARAK Natural Resources personnel and the Military Game Wardens. Attendance at one of these briefings is mandatory for all hunters who have drawn a moose permit, as well as any companions who will accompany them on the hunt.

18-5 Other Natural Resources Oriented Outdoor Recreation

*"I'd see moose and fox; sometimes coyotes in their heavy winter pelts would run along aside me on the tops of the banks. After twenty or thirty minutes I'd turn and ski home. I'd never slept better in my life."*³¹

Aside from hunting and fishing, Fort Richardson offers a wide array of natural resources-related recreational activities. They range from passive activities, such as watching wildlife and picnicking, to very active recreational outlets such as hiking, rafting, camping, skiing, and ORV riding.

18-5a Picnicking and Camping

Day use and picnicking are authorized at Cottonwood Park and the fishing lakes on post including Otter, Gwen, Thompson, Waldon, and Clunie Lakes. Visitors are required to obtain a pass at the Main Gate to enter Fort Richardson.

³¹Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf in *It Doesn't Take a Hero*

Overnight vehicle camping is authorized only at established camping areas for up to seven days. The three areas on post authorized for overnight camping with recreational vehicles are Black Spruce Travel Camp, Upper Otter Lake and Clunie Lake. Black Spruce Travel Camp is Fort Richardson's full service overnight camping facility. Parking areas accommodate any size vehicle and motor home. Tent pads, water, sewer, electrical hookups, bath and laundry facilities also are available. Reservations are made through Outdoor Recreation by telephone or by contacting the camp manager on-site. Fees are charged for Black Spruce.

Upper Otter Lake campground can accommodate cars and truck campers. Tent pads, water, and toilet facilities are available. There are no electrical or sewer hookups. A small fee is required to camp at Upper Otter Lake. Contact the boat rental facility at Otter Lake for reservations.

Clunie Lake is the post's most remote and undeveloped camping area. Overnight camping is authorized within the camping area near the middle of the west shore of Clunie Lake. The only facilities are portable toilets and garbage receptacles. Currently, there is no charge for camping at Clunie Lake. Contact the Otter Lake boat rental facility for reservations.



Otter Lake campground.

Open fires for recreational purposes are prohibited in all areas of Fort Richardson. Fires are permitted in portable stoves and grills, or permanent established grills and/or fireplaces. All fires must be attended and completely extinguished upon departure from the site. The cutting of firewood and stripping of birch bark for any purposes is prohibited.

18-5b Trails

The asphalt recreational trail along the west side of the Glenn Highway on Fort Richardson is the most popular non-motorized route on post. It receives continuous use from walkers, bikers, joggers, and roller bladers in summer and cross country skiers in winter. Currently, the trail is being connected to the Anchorage trail system with a three mile link from Boniface Parkway and the Glenn Highway along Ship Creek to downtown Anchorage. The trail already continues north from Fort Richardson to Birchwood, a one-way distance of about 15 miles. Residents of Eagle River also have access to the trail.

The post has over 50 miles of cross-country ski trails. These are used primarily for military training, but also are available for recreational use. Six of the most popular are the Red, Green, Blue, Yellow, Recreational, and Biathlon Ski Trails. Other trails that provide access to the Chugach State Park cross portions of the post as well. These trails are used primarily by hikers and mountain bikers. An important and heavily used access trail to the Ship Creek drain-



Fort Richardson has many excellent hiking trails.

age in the Chugach State Park originates on Fort Richardson below Site Summit. A two-mile trail also exists to provide access to a remote cabin in the Chugach mountains.

Over the years, Fort Richardson has received many requests for snowmachine routes through the post that would connect Anchorage with urban areas to the north at Eagle River, Chugiak, and Birchwood. These requests have come from military and civilian snowmachine clubs in the Anchorage area. USARAK has consistently denied these requests as the proposed routes pose significant safety, security, environmental, and liability problems in addition to being incompatible with the military mission. In the past, illegal snowmachine activities have resulted in serious vandalism and damage to a number of areas on post including Moose Run Golf Course. The majority of ongoing trespass occurring south of Glenn Highway is from snowmachines and ORVs. Current policy dictates that there will be no expansion of ORV trails (to include snowmachines) on Fort Richardson beyond those presently authorized. Section 1-3 and Appendix 1-3 discuss concerns and policies of USARAK toward non-military land uses. USARAK accommodates military and public snowmachine use in an open area on north post. Further accommodation is not practical or feasible. The Army will maintain the “status quo” and will not establish snowmachine routes on Fort Richardson, beyond those already designated.

18-5c Off-Road Vehicles

ORVs have great potential for damage to natural resources. Army policy on ORVs is very restrictive (AR 200-3). USARAK Regulation 190-13 addresses areas open and closed to ORV use on Fort Richardson. Use of privately-owned ORVs on Fort Richardson is allowed on a limited basis. Vehicles that are used commonly as ORVs on post must remain on designated trails and roads, and permits are required. About 400 permits were issued by the MPs in 1994. Problems concerning ORVs are addressed in Section 16-4b of this plan.

Legal and illegal ORV use on Fort Richardson is high throughout the summer months. The most common ORVs using the post in summer include four-wheel drive vehicles, three and four wheelers, and dirt bikes. Snowmachines are the dominant ORV

using the post during the winter months when the snowpack is adequate. ORV use on Fort Richardson is authorized only on established trails north of the Davis Highway between Poleline Road on the east and Otter Lake Road on the west. A prepared trail for motorcycles and three and four wheelers has been established in an abandoned material site near Bryant Army Airfield and the Glenn Highway. ORVs operating in summer must stay on established roads.

Opening and closing dates of Fort Richardson’s ORV seasons will be set in conjunction with Chugach State Park.

USARAK will maintain opportunities for ORV use provided it does not conflict with the military mission or adversely affect the environment. USARAK will re-evaluate the current ORV plan for adequacy in protecting resource and training values. The plan will be updated to address trespass ORV use in unauthorized areas. It will investigate a future ORV-user fee program to supplement costs for land rehabilitation and institutional controls.

18-5d Watchable Wildlife Program

The recreational pursuit of wildlife watching is obviously dependent upon wildlife abundance and observability. Moose watching is very popular, particularly around the cantonment area. Bird watching is done throughout the post. Otter Lake has two waterfowl observation platforms and a nature trail for viewing opportunities. Watchable wildlife has become a very popular recreational pastime over the last few years. The State of Alaska has developed a watchable wildlife booklet that includes Fort Richardson. The Watchable Wildlife program is very important at Fort Richardson. This program provides recreation and enhances environmental awareness among participants. The program is described in Section 17-6.

18-5e Boating and Rafting

Recreational boating on post lakes, particularly Otter Lake, is popular. Eagle River is heavily used during the summer months by rafters, canoers, and kayakers. The Army issued 532 river use permits in 1996. In 1997, 622 permits were issued. Many

boaters make multiple trips down lower Eagle River, some as many as a dozen trips, during the summer.

Lower Eagle River which passes through Fort Richardson is rated as Class II whitewater (Embrick, 1994). At high water, some reaches of the river may be low Class III. The Army prepared environmental documentation and held public meetings on the recreational boating use of Eagle River in 1995. The need for an improved permitting policy and a new boat take-out area were identified. The Army constructed a boat take-out in May 1995, which included a gravel access road and parking area, signs, picnic table, portable toilet, and a large dumpster for trash disposal. An improved permitting process was initiated in 1996. Applications for permits are obtained by mail from the Public Affairs Office or in person from the Military Police at the Wildlife Museum, Mondays through Fridays during normal working hours. Permits to boat Eagle River are issued at no cost.



Rafting is popular on Eagle River.

The canyon portion of Ship Creek where it exits the Chugach Mountains is located on Fort Richardson. This section of the creek is very difficult to boat and is rated as Class V during normal flow and V+ during high water (Embrick, 1994). The river drops at a high rate in the canyon which causes the current to be exceedingly swift. In addition, narrow channels strewn with boulders make these waters even more dangerous. Ship Creek is a major public water supply for both military installations (Fort Richardson and Elmendorf AFB) and the City of Anchorage. For this reason, the portion of Ship

Creek upstream of the Fort Richardson Dam remains closed to all boating and rafting activities.

Other boating is authorized for anglers using lakes on post, including Otter, Gwen, Thompson, Waldon, and Clunie. Visitors who desire to boat on these lakes are required to obtain a Visitor's Pass to enter the installation at the Main Gate. A pass for each day's use is required. Only electric motors are authorized for use on Otter, Gwen, Thompson, and Waldon Lakes. Outboard motors up to 6 horsepower may be used on Clunie Lake. Testing outboard motors on post lakes is prohibited. Boats of any design including canoes, kayaks, and rafts and any other flotation device are not authorized on Ship Creek, North Fork Campbell Creek, or any other stream on the reservation with the exception of Eagle River.

Commercial rafting is not permitted on the post. USARAK must have the option to close Eagle River to rafting with little notice, encumbrances, or threat of tort claim, and this stipulation is not compatible with commercial rafting.

18-5f Skiing

Downhill skiing is available at the Army's Arctic Valley Ski Area/Ski Bowl near Site Summit. The



Fort Richardson has over 50 miles of cross country ski trails.

area has facilities for both military training activities and civilian recreational skiing. Downhill and cross country skiing is also available on the Five Mile Trail and at the Dyea Ski Area. Other cross country trails are discussed in the trails section.

There is some discussion regarding the installation of lights at a sledding hill. This would add a very attractive recreational feature to the post. Lights are needed due to limited daylight during winter months.

18-5g Site Summit

Site Summit rises to almost 4,000 feet above sea level along the eastern boundary of Fort Richardson. It has an all-weather, well-maintained gravel road to the summit, where a Nike Hercules Missile Battery was in operation from 1959 to 1979. The abandoned missile site is an important Cold War property that was nominated and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1996. The Alaska Office of History and Archeology (1996) prepared a pamphlet describing Site Summit.



Site Summit has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Site Summit is also an outstanding area for Anchorage residents and visitors to enjoy scenic views. Attractive features at Site Summit include the alpine setting on the western flanks of the Chugach Mountains, the panoramic view of the Cook Inlet Basin, Talkeetna Mountains 60 miles to the north, a large segment of the Alaska Range — from Mount McKinley 250 miles south to Mount Iliamna, and the Kenai Mountains 25 miles to the south. In addition, Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB, and Anchorage lie at its feet, and prominent features of these urban areas can be seen from Site Summit.

The site has high potential as a national historic and recreation area. The State Historic Preservation Office along with the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation are developing a study plan to determine management responsibilities and options for the site.

In addition, use of the area by the public would be strictly enforced. Details, outlining procedures, provisions, and requirements for public use of Site Summit, would be incorporated in both the Outdoor Recreation Management Action Plan and Range Regulation 350-2.

18-5h Other Recreational Activities

USARAK strives to maintain an interactive relationship with local communities by providing many recreational opportunities to the public. The post has been used for activities such as marathons, hiking, backpacking, dog mushing (40 permits in 1994), mountain and road cycling, camping, berry picking, golfing, scouting, dog trials, and Special Olympics.

There are three areas of the post where dog training clubs can train their dogs and hold field trials. These areas are Derby Pond, Kiowa Lake, and Thompson Lake. Dog trainers are not permitted to use live birds or live ammunition for training.

Pets must be under either voice or leash control in all areas, and must be leashed in developed recreation sites and waterfowl nesting areas.

Swimming in any lake, stream, creek or reservoir on Fort Richardson is prohibited.

Falconry can be conducted on Fort Richardson's lands in accordance with stipulations set forth by Natural Resources Branch and Fort Richardson Range Control Office.

Post rifle ranges are used by numerous law enforcement agencies. Public tours of the wildlife museum, fish hatchery, and other areas are offered. This type of open and cooperative interaction is essential to allowing diverse recreational pursuits on a continuing basis.

There is some interest in horseback riding on Fort Richardson. This will be addressed in the Outdoor

Recreation Management Action Plan being developed. Until this plan is completed, horseback riding is not permitted.

Recreational activities involving removal of minerals (including gold panning, dredging, and mining of any kind), and/or fossils from Army-controlled land is not authorized.

USARAK also maintains a recreation camp located in Seward. This recently renovated camp offers many outdoor recreation activities available for active duty military personnel.

18-6 Recreation and Ecosystem Management

A basic tenet of ecosystem management is the “human values and use” component. Fort Richardson’s

outdoor recreation program affects ecosystems in terms of both products (fish and game species, firewood) and disturbances associated with recreationists. USARAK is well aware of the overriding need to ensure these activities do not significantly impact overall ecosystem integrity. Activities such as game harvest, ORV use or horseback riding will be closely monitored for impacts on ecosystem integrity. Special consideration will be given to protection of critical areas (e.g., loon-nesting sites, highly erodable areas) from negative impacts due to outdoor recreation.